GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1477
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008
FOODGRAIN PRODUCTION
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rising population, industrial and trade activities and emphasis on cash crops have led to a decline in food production;

(b) if so, the strategy adopted by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether studies by the Planning Commission and National Council for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NCAEPR) have revealed that there is a need to enhance both production and productivity for food and nutritional security;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(e) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Agricultural Universities have made any contribution in increasing foodgrain production;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and (g) the details regarding steps taken by the Government to launch second green revolution in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): The highest ever foodgrain production of 219.32 million tones is estimated for the year 2007-08 (lind Advance Estimate, 2007-08).

(c) to (g): The National Development Council in its 53rd meeting resolved to increase the production of rice by 10 million tones, wheat by 8 million tones and pulses by 2 million tones by 2011-12 to ensure food security for the growing population. The Indian Seed Programme engages the Central and State Governments, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), State agricultural universities (SAU), and the cooperative and private sectors in its programme. The ICAR has been operating a Mega Seed project at the cost of Rs.200.00 crores in most of its crop science, horticultural science and fisheries science institutes and in many SAUs for producing quality seeds for ultimate use by the farmers through out the country, whereby it envisages for better seed replacement rate, leading to enhanced production and productivity of cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables and fishes. The Government has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in pursuance of the resolution of the National Development Council (NDC). The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) has also been launched with an aim to achieve 4 per cent annual growth in the agriculture sector during the Eleventh Five Year Plan by ensuring a holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors.